

DEAR EDITOR,

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

I have been asked to write a short account of our Infant Sunday School for the "Plant." About the end of November, the Vicar asked me to take over the Infants, as they were being rather neglected and had no separate room, but were "taught" in the large school-room together with about ninety big boys and girls. I was given the Parish Room and told to arrange it as I pleased, subject, of course, to the Vicar's approval. I took two girls from a class which I had taken before (aged about seventeen), one from an Adult Bible Class, and one who had helped with the Infant Class before—in all, four helpers. We meet every week and talk over arrangements, and one or two of the helpers call for children from their own houses. The School is divided into small Classes, each with its own Teacher, who is responsible for her children's behaviour and hears their repetition. On Sunday mornings we meet at the big School for Prayers and Call Over, and then we proceed to the Parish Room, little girls first. Our procession is a pride and a delight. One little boy always runs on to open the door. It seems hardly to lie within the department of a Sunday School, but we lay great stress upon good manners! When everyone is settled, repetition is heard and a Hymn is sung. Each child who is old enough is taught a little, simple Prayer to say on going into Church. Our plan in Church is for each helper to take a few children (not more than four), to sit in the middle, and to make the Service as interesting as possible.

It is the plan which has been adopted with the Lea Green children, with the result that my present pupil finds the Litany "thrilling."

We find the places for the children, and before Service begins there is quite a little excitement about the Hymns amongst the elder children, and they generally read them solidly through from the text at the top to the *Amen* at the other end. Nearly all the Infants go out before the Sermon.

Afternoon School begins at three o'clock. We open School with a Hymn, one or two Prayers and Call Over,

after which we say the Twenty-Third Psalm. Then there is a Short Lesson. One Sunday a Bible story given by one of the helpers, next Missionary talk (which I take—of which more later), the Sunday after there is Children's Service in Church, and the last Sunday a Picture Talk. We close with another Hymn, the *Nunc Dimittis*, and the Lord's Prayer, and Grace. The children then stand, and I say "God be with you, children," and they say, "God be with you, Teacher." And then they all troop out.

It seems difficult to arouse any real enthusiasm for Missions in a village like this. I have tried with the little ones to get them to think about other little ones near at hand, by asking them to think out some little gift for the babies in the Children's Ward at Derby Infirmary. It must not be money, and if they buy anything, it must not cost more than a penny. Putting a penny in a Missionary box is a delightful sensation, but when the penny has been given you for the express purpose it does not mean much. But for Tommy to part with his treasured stump of pencil because it would amuse a sick child, costs something more. I believe, by the way, that this is Rousseau's idea. Many apologies to him!

Our ruling idea is, I think, to make the children conscious of a Personal Saviour, and the unity which is involved in our common Communion. We try to remind them each Sunday of the badge which we all wear on our forehead though we do not see it, and of what it means. We try to teach them the spirit of the Catechism, and lead them on to preparation for the letter of it.

I seem to have given a very bald account of what is a very great pleasure to all of us. We are only at the beginning of things, and should be very glad of suggestions from anyone who is interested.

S. HISTZEL.